



MARK MILLER

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Testimony by Sen. Mark Miller Senate Bill 168 Academic Excellence Scholarship Program October 17, 2007

Madame Chair and members,

Thank you for holding a public hearing today on Senate Bill 168.

It is my intent to improve the Academic Excellence Scholarship program with this legislation.

An inequity in the current program was brought to my attention by a constituent.

Academic Excellence Scholarships are awarded to Wisconsin high school seniors who have the highest grade point average in each public and private high school throughout the State of Wisconsin.

The number of scholarships each high school is eligible for is based on total student enrollment.

In order to receive a scholarship, a student must be enrolled at a participating University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Technical College, or independent institution in the state on a full-time basis by September 30 of the academic year following the academic year in which he or she was designated as a scholar.

The value of the scholarship is \$2,250 per year, to be applied towards tuition.

Half of the scholarship is funded by the state, while the other half is matched by the institution.

Under current law, if the certified scholar decides to enroll in a school outside of Wisconsin or declines the scholarship for whatever reason, and there is not an alternate with the identical Grade Point Average, the scholar with the next highest GPA may be certified as an Academic Excellence Scholarship scholar only if the school weights different courses differently.] — weighting ✓

Under current law, if a certified scholar declines the scholarship and there is not an alternate with the identical GPA and the school does not weight different courses differently, the scholarship is not awarded at that school that year.

This bill allows a senior with the next highest GPA to be certified as a scholar if there is not an alternate with an identical GPA, regardless of how the high school weights its courses.

The bipartisan group of co-authors and co-sponsors considers this a matter of fairness. I would appreciate your vote to report SB 168 out of committee with a recommendation for passage.

Thank you.